

Remarks

In response to the non-final Office Action mailed December 15, 2004, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections and that the case pass to issue in light of the amendments above and the remarks below. By this paper, the Applicant respectfully requests amending claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 13 and 20, canceling claims 4 and 14, and adding new claims 21 and 22, such that claims 1-3, 5-13, and 15-22 are pending.

The Examiner has set forth the following objections and rejections: (1) the specification is objected to for including the word means; (2) claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; (3) claims 1, 2, 7, 9-12, 17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S.P.N. 6,600,430 to Minagawa (hereinafter the Minagawa patent); (4) claims 3, 5, 13 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Minagawa patent; (5) claims 4, 6, 14, 16 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Minagawa patent in view of U.S.P.A. 2003/0224840 to Frank (hereinafter the Frank application); and (6) claims 8 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Minagawa patent in view of U.S.P.A. 2003/0098784 to Van Bosch (hereinafter the Van Bosch application).

Objection To The Specification

In light of the above amendment to the abstract, the Applicant respectfully submits that the objection to the abstract is obviated.

Rejection Of Claims 1-20 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for including the use of the word "module" in claims 1, 2, 10, 12 and 20 under the rationale that the use of this term is confusing because a number of features are illustrated as modules in Figure 1.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the use of the term "module" is not confusing as one of ordinary skill in the art may clearly understand the scope of the invention from reading the claims. The Applicant points out that the use of the term "module" is intended to cover any module in the vehicle which has wireless capabilities for wireless connecting the phone to the vehicle network, and as such, the Applicant is resistant to amending the claims to include unnecessary limitations.

However, as noted in MPEP § 2173.02, the Examiner is invited to provide a suggestion for improving the clarity or precision of the claim. As also noted in the cited MPEP section, the Applicant is entitled some latitude in the manner of expression and aptness of terms recited in the claims even though the claim language may not be as precise as the Examiner may desire.

The Examiner has further rejected dependent claim 6 under this rejection for failing to include antecedent basis for "the wireless module." Claim 6 has been amended such that the Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is obviated.

**Rejection Of Claims 1, 2, 7, 9-12, 17 and 19
Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Over The Minagawa Patent**

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 7, 9-12, 17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the Minagawa patent. This rejection includes rejections to independent claims 1 and 10 and dependent claims 2, 7, 9, 11, 12, 17 and 19. The Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is obviated in light of the amendments to independent claims 1 and 10. In particular, independent claims 1 and 10 have been amended to include limitations directed towards transferring an audio component of a phone call from a wireless phone to the vehicle network. As noted by the Examiner at page 6 of the rejection, the Minagawa patent fails to disclose such limitations.

**Rejection Of Claims 3, 5, 13 and 15 Under
35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Over The Minagawa Patent**

The Examiner has rejected dependent claims 3, 5, 13 and 15, which depend from patentable independent claims 1 and 10 and include all of the limitations thereof, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Minagawa patent. As noted above, the Examiner has admitted that the Minagawa patent fails to disclose the features of the independent claims from which these dependent claims depend, and therefore, these dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as independent claims from which they depend are patentable.

**Rejection Of Claims 4, 6, 14, 16 and 20 Under
35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Over The Minagawa Patent and Frank Application**

The Examiner has rejected dependent claims 4, 6, 14, and 16, which depend from patentable independent claims 1 and 10 and include all of the limitations thereof, and independent claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Minagawa patent in view of the Frank application. In light of the amendments noted above with respect to independent claims 1 and 10, the Applicants have elected to address this rejection as it applies to independent claims 1, 10 and 20.

Independent claims 1, 10 and 20 have each been amended to include limitations directed towards a module for connecting a wireless phone to vehicle network such that an audio component of a phone call carried out on the wireless phone is conducted in a wireless manner through a speaker and microphone module connected to the vehicle network and a routing of the phone call is carried out only through the wireless phone and a wireless network outside of the vehicle.

As noted above, the Examiner admits that the Minagawa patent fails to teach the foregoing limitations. To make up for this deficiency of the Minagawa patent, the Examiner has relied upon the teachings of the Frank application. The Frank application, however, fails

to make up for the deficiencies of the Minagawa patent.

In more detail, the Frank patent routes wireless calls from the vehicle to a wireless network outside the vehicle as opposed to routing the call from the wireless phone to the wireless network outside the vehicle. As such, the Frank application fails to disclose or teach each element recited in independent claims 1, 10 and 20. Consequently, these independent claims, and the dependent claims which they depend therefrom include all of the limitations thereof, are patentable and nonobvious over the combination of the Minagawa patent and Frank application.

**Rejection Of Claims 8 and 18 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)
Over The Minagawa Patent In View Of The Van Bosche Application**

The Examiner has rejected dependent claims 8 and 18, which depend from patentable independent claims 1 and 10 and include all of the limitations thereof, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Minagawa patent in view of the Van Bosche application. The Applicant respectfully submits that these dependent claims are patentable at least for the same reasons as the independent claims from which they depend are patentable.

New Claims 21 and 22

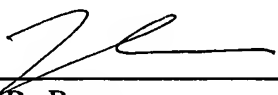
Dependent claims 21 and 22, which depend from patentable independent claims 1 and 10 respectively, have been added by this paper to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the "hands-free" manner with which the audio component of the phone call is communicated through the vehicle network to the speaker and microphone module. The Applicant points out these dependent claims as it is believed that these claims are separately patentable over each of the references cited by the Examiner in the Office Action. In particular, none of the references teach automatically communicating the audio component of the phone call to the vehicle network without requiring user action. In fact, the Frank application requires the user to press a button on the wireless phone or the vehicle in order to transfer the audio component of a phone call from the wireless phone to the vehicle.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that each rejection has been fully replied to and traversed and that the case is in condition to pass to issue. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the case to issue and is invited to contact the undersigned if it would further prosecution of this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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